(b) whether Government have any plan to increase the EMU service; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The capacity of the existing train services on the Asansol-Burdwan section is considered adequate to cater to the present levels of demand.

(b) At present there is no proposal to increase EMU services on this sector.

Quality of meals in trains

†735. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of meals being served in trains is constantly deteriorating whereas prices thereof are increasing; and

(b) if so, the details of steps being taken by Government to check this opposite trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Menu and tariff of standard meals, breakfast, tea / coffee is fixed by the Ministry of Railways from time to time taking into account the cost of raw material prevailing in the market and other over head charges.

Railways have taken a number of policy initiatives including use of branded product, sale of reputed brand ISI marked packaged drinking water, use of standard cooking media, replacing open thali meals with casseroles, introduction of ecofriendly packaging and improved services standards etc. Surprise checks are organised from time to time at various levels and defaulters arc taken up.

Touts in rail reservations

†736. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any action against the touts active in rail reservations;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.